



**OPASTCO**

ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE PROMOTION  
AND ADVANCEMENT  
OF SMALL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COMPANIES

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

October 15, 1997

**RECEIVED**

OCT 15 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. William F. Caton, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Caton:

In accordance with the Commission's Public Notice of September 17, 1997, the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) nominates five individuals for appointment by the Joint Board to the incumbent LEC positions and one individual for the Alaska/insular position on the Rural Task Force. The USTA Small Company Committee has forwarded the same list of individuals for nomination.

OPASTCO believes that these nominees are highly qualified to address the issues regarding universal service in rural areas. They are intimately familiar with the practical requirements for a small company to provide rural areas with high quality modern telecommunications at reasonable rates, consistent with the universal service requirements of Congress and the Commission. The six individuals and their affiliations are listed below in alphabetical order. Attached is more detailed biographical information on each of the individuals, demonstrating their qualifications for these positions.

Evelyn Jerden  
Director, Revenue Requirements  
Western New Mexico Telephone Company  
Silver City, New Mexico

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List ABCDE

21 Dupont Circle, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.659.5990  
Fax 202.659.4619  
<http://www.opastco.org>

Joan Mandeville  
Assistant Manager  
Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative  
Missoula, Montana

Michael Pinguoch  
Controller  
Great Plains Communications, Inc.  
Blair, Nebraska

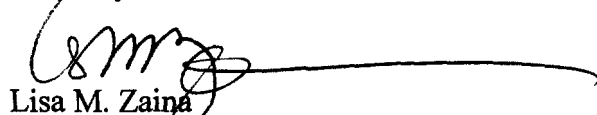
David Schmidt  
General Manager  
Heart of Iowa Telecommunications Cooperative  
Union, Iowa

Robert D. Williams  
General Manager  
Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company  
Oregon, Missouri

For the Alaska/insular position:

Jack H. Rhyner  
President  
TelAlaska  
Anchorage, Alaska

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. M. Zaina', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa M. Zaina  
Vice President/General Counsel

Attachments

## **RURAL TASK FORCE NOMINEE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

**NOMINEE:** Evelyn C. Jerden  
Director - Revenue Requirements

**NOMINEE COMPANY:** Western New Mexico Telephone Company, Inc.  
314 West Yankee Street, Silver City, NM 88062  
505-388-2546; 505-388-2540 FAX

**NOMINEE ADDRESS:** 4070 N. Circulo Manzanillo, Tucson, AZ 85750  
520-577-9864; 520-577-9849 FAX; EJERDEN@worldnet.att.net

**NOMINEE CATEGORY:** Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) with less than \$40 Million Annual Operating Revenues.

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:** 1979 - 1992 Ernst & Young Telecommunications Consulting Group.  
1992 - Current Western New Mexico Telephone Company, Inc.

**PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:** Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Washington State since 1979. Bachelor of Business Administration, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington, May 1979. Subject Matter Expert in FCC Part 32, Uniform System of Accounts, Part 36, Jurisdictional Separations and Part 69, Access Charges.

**RELATED INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION:** Evelyn is an active member of the National Rural Telecom Association's Legislative Committee. She is also active in the New Mexico Exchange Carrier Group (NMECG). She co-chairs the NMECG USF Committee and is a member of the NMECG small company committee. Evelyn participates in the New Mexico Universal Service Fund (NMUSF) Task Force and is also a member of the United States Telephone Association's (USTA) Universal Service Work Group.

**KNOWLEDGE OF POLICY ISSUES:** As a member of the NMUSF Task Force, Evelyn is currently working on many of the relevant policy issues impacting rural companies. The NMUSF Task Force is comprised of ILECs, IXCs, CLECs, wireless, consumer advocates, commission staff and other representatives which will be very similar to the composition of the federal Rural Task Force. Evelyn's experience with the NMUSF Task Force should assist her in understanding the issues and complexities of each issue.

**KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL ISSUES:** As a consultant with Ernst & Young's Telecommunications Group for over 13 years, Evelyn worked on numerous projects for both large and small ILECs. She became knowledgeable about the different conditions under which small rural ILECs must operate versus large ILECs. Evelyn left E&Y in 1992 as a Senior Manager to become the Director of Revenue Requirements for Western New Mexico Telephone Company (Western). Since 1992, Evelyn has become even more intimately familiar with the operations of a small rural LEC, since Western serves approximately 6,100 access lines over 15,000 square miles with an average of approximately 1.5 access lines per route mile.

**KNOWLEDGE OF ENGINEERING ISSUES:** In the preparation of ILEC cost studies, Evelyn has had to become knowledgeable regarding the network. This includes understanding the various conditions which impact engineering, such as the length of the loop, or the cost break-even points between copper and fiber. She has also had experience with both large central office switches (e.g., Nortel DMS-100 with RSCs and RLCMs) and small switches (e.g., Nortel DMS-10).

**KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMICS:** As a CPA, Evelyn has a technical financial background and understands several different costing methods including the importance of cost model input factors.

**KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIAL CONCERNS:** Evelyn understands some of the needs of special concern groups since Western provides service to Native Americans on the Alamo Navajo Indian Reservation.

**Rural Task Force  
Professional Qualifications for Nominee**

<b>Nominee:</b>	<b>Joan Mandeville</b> Assistant Manager
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 1221 N. Russell Street Missoula, MT 59802-1898  Phone: (406) 541-5300 Fax: (406) 54105333
<b>Employment History:</b>	1982 - 1989 Montana Public Service Commission 1980 - 1997 Montana Telephone Association 1997 - Present Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative
<b>Nominee Category:</b>	Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) serving rural areas with annual operating revenues of \$40 million or less.
<b>Professional Qualifications:</b>	Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Carroll College, 1980. Current non-practicing Certified Public Accountant Certificate. Fifteen years' experience in the telecommunications industry.
<b>Regulatory Experience:</b>	<p>While working for the Montana Public Service Commission, Ms Mandeville was a member of a small team that developed all technical telecommunications issues and produced recommendations to the Commissions on all regulatory matters necessary to establish carrier access charges, to implement the divestiture of AT&amp;T, and to implement other pricing and policy changes.</p> <p>Ms. Mandeville was responsible for all of the regulatory work for the Montana Telephone Association. She frequently testified as an expert witness before the Montana Commission. In her present position, Ms. Mandeville is responsible for the regulatory work of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative and its subsidiaries, Clark Fork Telecommunications (an ILEC) and Montana Wireless (a CLEC).</p>
<b>Background - Policy Issues:</b>	Ms. Mandeville has a broad background in telecommunications policy issues. She had primary responsibility in the revenue requirement bureau for all telecommunications policy issues. Additionally, she facilitated the Commission's Task Force on Interconnection Issues for Small Companies. Her work with the

Montana Telephone Association included representing Montana's independent telephone companies in a wide variety of policy forums including Montana Commission proceedings, the state legislature, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Telecommunications Task Force, and testifying before a Congressional sub-committee concerning universal service issues. Ms. Mandeville prepared several sets of comments to the Federal Communications Commission on universal service proceedings and assisted in writing Montana's universal service statutes.

**Background -  
Economics:**

Ms. Mandeville's work at the Montana Commission included a variety of proceedings that addressed pricing issues. These proceedings included establishment of carrier access charges for all local exchange companies and other pricing issues for large local exchange companies. Parties engaged in vigorous debate about long run incremental costing methodology and reconciliation between the outcome of LRIC studies and total revenue requirements.

Ms. Mandeville administered Montana's carrier access charge pool for small companies during her tenure at the Montana Telephone Association. This work included preparing all regulatory filings and testifying on a variety of pricing issues.

**Background -  
Engineering:**

Ms. Mandeville's responsibilities for regulation and pricing issues requires ongoing familiarity and education in basic telecommunications network operations. She has attended a variety of seminars and short courses on telecommunications technology. If nominated, Ms. Mandeville will work closely with Blackfoot Telephone's engineering department which is managed by a Professional Engineer with over 25 years of telecommunications experience.

**Representation  
of a Variety of  
Economic, Social,  
and Geographic  
Interests:**

Ms. Mandeville has a substantial history of working closely with all of Montana's telecommunications industry participants. Her work with the Montana Telephone Association established a reasonably detailed knowledge about all of Montana's small companies. These companies face a wide variety of challenges, diverse geographical characteristics and diverse local economics. Additionally, several of Montana's rural companies, including Blackfoot Telephone, serve Native American Reservations.

## **Rural Task Force Nominee Professional Qualifications**

### **NOMINEE:**

Michael Pinguoch  
Controller  
Great Plains Communications, Inc.  
P.O. Box 500  
Blair, Nebraska 68008-0500  
402 429 9511

### **Category:**

Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier with less than \$40 million  
Annual Operating Revenues

### **Professional Qualifications:**

Bachelor of Business Administration, Pacific Lutheran  
University  
12 Years with Ernst and Young Telecommunications  
Consulting Group  
15 years with Great Plains Communications, Inc. As  
Controller he is responsible for all activities of the  
Accounting Department, Rates and Tariffs for local and state  
and interstate access service, and the Information Systems  
Department. In this capacity, he deals with all aspects of  
telecommunications, separations, revenues and accounting.

### **Knowledge of Policy Issues**

As consultant and subsequently controller, Mr. Pinguoch has  
been actively involved in the major regulatory policy issues  
over the last twenty five years. He has been a member of  
the USTA Regulatory Issues and Advocacy Committee and  
is currently a member of the OPASTCO Separations and  
Access Committee, of which he is Past Chairman. This  
committee develops and directs OPASTCO regulatory filings  
with the FCC. He is also a member of the Universal Service  
Task Force appointed by the Nebraska Public Service  
Commission. At Great Plains he is responsible for  
management, development and coordination of issues  
related to universal service, access reform and  
interconnection.

### **Knowledge of Rural Issues**

Great Plains provides modern telecommunications service to  
26, 000 subscribers in exclusively rural services areas  
extending over a large portion of Nebraska. Mr. Pinguoch is  
intimately familiar with the challenges of providing this  
service and the technology employed to provide it.

**Rural Task Force  
Professional Qualifications for Nominee**

**NOMINEE:**                      **David L. Schmidt**  
General Manager

**NOMINEE COMPANY:**      Heart of Iowa Telecommunications Cooperative  
502 Maine Street, P.O. Box 130  
Union, IA 50258-0130  
515-486-2211; Fax 515-486-2205

**NOMINEE ADDRESS:**      P.O. Box 156  
Union, IA 50258-0156  
515-486-2211

**NOMINEE CATEGORY:**    Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) with less than \$40  
Million Annual Operating Revenues

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:** 1960 - 1980 U.S. Marine Corps  
1982 - Current, Heart of Iowa Telecommunications Cooperative

**PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:** 16 Accounting Credits Virginia Community College.  
General Manager for two independent telephone companies.

**RELATED INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION:** Member of the TRS Advisory Council for NECA which recommends rates for TRS service. Chairman of the Iowa Telecommunications Association Regulatory Committee and a board member and past President of the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA)

**KNOWLEDGE OF POLICY ISSUES:** As past President and Board member of NTCA since 1988, Mr. Schmidt has been fully involved in the major policy issues. As a member of the TRS Advisory Council, he works with IXC's, State Commissioner, State TRS provider, members of the hearing and speech impaired community and other representatives. As a former member of the Union-Whitten School Board, he is well aware of the universal service needs of rural schools.

**KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL ISSUES:** As a manager of both a rural cooperative and rural commercial company, Mr. Schmidt is keenly aware of the needs of rural farmers, businesses and residential subscribers of Iowa.

**KNOWLEDGE OF ENGINEERING ISSUES:** Two exchanges of the cooperative that Mr. Schmidt is managing have just completed putting fiber in the loop to within 18K feet of each rural subscriber. He has final authority on all technology that is employed in the two companies that he manages.

**KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMICS:** In his role as a manager, Mr. Schmidt has the practical experience of putting, as they say, "the rubber to the road" when it comes to ensuring that everything within the companies are done on a economical basis. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Security State Bank.

**KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIAL CONCERNS:** After working on the TRS Advisory Council, ITA Regulatory Committee, NTCA's Board of Directors, and managing two independent telephone companies, Mr. Schmidt is keenly aware of the issues facing citizens in rural America and the affects that they have on rural life.



**Nominee:** Robert D. Williams  
President

**Nominee Company:** Oregon Farmers Mutual  
118 East Nodaway  
Oregon, Missouri 64473  
(816) 446-3391  
(816) 446-2800 FAX  
Access lines: 1,160

**Nominee Category:** Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) with less than \$40 Million Annual Operation Revenues.

**Employment History:** 1970-Present: Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Education, Moorhead Minnesota State University, 1969  
Graduate

**State Industry  
Involvement:**

Member of Missouri Telephone Association's Board of Directors, 1984-Present  
President of Missouri Telephone Association, 1991  
Chairman and Founder of the Missouri Telephone Association's Small  
Company Committee, 1984-1991,  
Member of Missouri Telephone Association's Small Company Committee,  
1984-Present  
Active in the development of Missouri's Primary Toll Carrier Plan

**National Industry  
Involvement:**

Member of the United States Telephone Association's Board of Directors, 1994-  
Present  
Member of the United States Telephone Association's Executive Committee,  
1996-Present  
Member of the United States Telephone Association's Small Company  
Committee, 1992 - Present  
Chairman of United States Telephone Association's Small Company  
Committee, 1996  
Member of the United States Telephone Associations Regulatory Issues and  
Advocacy Committee, 1996-Present  
Member of the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small  
Telecommunications Companies Average Schedule Committee, 1990-Present

**Industry Knowledge:** Knowledge of the regulatory, legislative and technical issues of the telephone and greater telecommunications industry was gained by first-hand, practical experience in running a small, rural telephone company for over twenty-five years.

Participation in state and national associations has led to an exceptional knowledge of the complex regulatory details of the telephone industry.

## **RESUME**

### **JACK H RHYNER**

**Present Position:**

**President and General Manager**  
**TelAlaska, Inc.**  
**2121 Abbott Road**  
**Anchorage, Alaska 99507**

**Employment History:**

**President and General Manager**  
**TELALASKA, INC. 1992 to present**  
**dba/Interior Telephone Company 1983 to 1992**

**Vice President and General Manager**  
**INTERIOR TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.**  
**1982 - 1983**

**Vice President, Plant**  
**INTERIOR TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.**  
**1979 - 1982**

**Plant Supervisor**  
**INTERIOR TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.**  
**1978 -1979**

**Mr. Rhyner's apprenticeship as a "combination-man" with Interior Telephone Company began in 1969 during Interior Telephone Company's first installation and cut-over of local telephone service at Fort Yukon, Alaska. From 1969 to 1978 he accumulated extensive in-the-field telecommunications installation and maintenance experience in all nine of Interior Telephone Company's certified local exchange areas.**

**Pertinent Education:**

**United States Independent Telephone Association**  
**Advanced Management Development Refresher**  
**University of Kansas at Lawrence, 1995**

**United States Independent Telephone Association**  
**Advanced Management Development Program**  
**University of Kansas at Lawrence, 1982**

**United States Independent Telephone Association**  
**Management Development Program**  
**University of Kansas at Lawrence, 1981**

## **Resume of Jack H Rhyner (continued)**

**Pertinent Education:**      **National Telecommunications Excellence in Leadership awards, 1988 - 1991**

**Numerous Telecommunications Industry Technical Schools, 1969-1987**

**East High School, Anchorage, Alaska 1970**

### **Alaska Telephone Association:**

**President, 1991 - 1993**  
**1st Vice President, 1989 -1991**  
**2nd Vice President, 1987 - 1989**

**During his fifteen year tenure as an Alaska Telephone Association Board Member, Mr. Rhyner has participated on numerous ATA standing committees, including Revenue Requirements (Chairman 1989 - 1991), Part 36 Task Force (Chairman, 1989 - 1991), Engineering and Planning (Chairman 1986 - 1989), By-laws Committee (1988), Executive Committee (1987 - 1993), and Government Affairs Committee (Chairman 1993 to present)**

**1993 Kagayyak Award recipient deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Alaskan Telephony and the Alaska Telephone Association.**

### **Other Professional Associations:**

**Western Rural Telephone Association**  
**Board of Directors, 1987 to 1996**  
**Co-Chairman, REA Legislative Committee, 1989 - 1991**  
**Member, By-Laws Committee, 1992**  
**Member, Budget Committee, 1991 - 1992**  
**Member, REA Legislative Committee 1993 to present**  
**Member, Western Alliance Committee 1994 to present**

**Alaska Exchange Carriers Association**  
**Board of Directors, 1990 to present**  
**Chairman, Rate Development Committee 1990 to present**  
**Chairman, Nominating Committee 1995**

**National Telephone Cooperative Association**  
**Co-Chairman, Commercial Company Task Force, 1987-1989**  
**Member, Commercial Company Committee, 1992**

## **Appendix -- Service List**

**The Honorable Julia Johnson. State Chair  
Chairman  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Gerald Gunter Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850**

**Sheryl Todd (plus 8 copies)  
Federal Communications Commission  
Accounting and Audits Division  
Universal Service Branch  
2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8611  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**The Honorable David Baker  
Commissioner  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701**

**Rowland Curry  
Texas Public Utility Commission  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78701**

**The Honorable Laska Schoenfelder  
Commissioner  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070**

**Ann Dean  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806**

**The Honorable Martha S. Hogerty  
Public Counsel  
Missouri Office of Public Counsel  
301 West High Street, Suite 250  
P.O. Box 7800  
Jefferson City, MO 65102**

**Charles Bolle  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070**

**Bridget Duff. State Staff Chair  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2450 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0866**

**Phillip F. McClelland  
Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate  
1425 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120**

**Tiane Sommer  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701**